THE *Maidstone* GARLAND,

In Four PARTS.

1 The faithful Courtship between *Henry* of *Dover*, and beautiful *Ruth* of *Maidstone*: With an Account of their Crosses and Disapointments by her Parents.

2 How *Henry* for the sake of his Love, travelled into Spain, where, after some Time, he was Courted by a Spanish Lady, whom he Wedded, and so obtained Abundance of Treasure.

3 How *Ruth* his Love, getting loose from her Parents Cloathed in Man's Apparel, travelled in search of her Love, whom she accidentally found in the City of *Cadix*:

4 Of their return to *England*, and their triumphant Marriage in the Town of *Maidstone*, to the Joy and Satisfaction of their Friends and Parents.

Sheffield: Printed by *John Garnet*, in the *Castle-*

The *Maidſtone* GARLAND, &c.

PART I.

A Seaman of *Dover*, whoſe excellent Parts,
For Wiſdom & Learning had conquer'd the hearts
Of many young Damſels of beauty ſo bright, (
Of him this new Ditty in brief I will write,
And ſhew you the turnings & windings of Fate,
His Paſſions and Sorrows ſo many and great,
And how he was bleſt with his Love at the laſt,
When all the rough ſtorms of his Sorrows were paſt,
And now to be brief, I will tell you the Truth,
A beautiful Lady, whoſe Name it was *Ruth*,
A Squire's young Daughter, near *Maidſtone* in *Kent*,
Was all his Heart's Treaſure, his Joy and Content.
Unknown to her Parents, in private they'd meet
Where many Love Leſſions they'd often repeat,
With Kiſſes and tender Embraces likewiſe,
She granted him Love, thus he gained the Prize.
Said ſhe, I conſent for to be thy ſweet Bride,
Whatever becomes of my Fortune, ſhe cry'd;
The Frowns of my Parents I never will fear,
But freely will go through the World with my Dear.
A Jewel he gave her in Token of Love,
And vow'd by the Sacred Powers above,
To wed the next Morning, but they were betray'd
And all by the means of her treacherous Maid.
Who told her dear Parents, that they were agreed
With that they fell both in a paſſion with ſpeed,

Who ſaid, E'er a Seaman our Daughter ſhall have,
We had rather follow her Corpſe to the Grave.
The Lady was ſtraight to her Chamber confin'd,
Where long ſhe continu'd with Sorrow of mind,
And ſo did her Love for the loſs of his Dear,
No Sorrow was ever ſo ſharp and ſevere.
When long he had mourned for his Love & delight
Then under her Window he came in the Night,
And ſung forth this Ditty, My Deareſt, farewel,
Behold in this Nation no longer I'll dwell.
I'm going from hence to the Kingdom of *Spain*,
Becauſe I am willing that thou ſhould'ſt obtain,
Thy Freedom once more, or my Heart will break,
If longer thou lies thus confin'd for my ſake,
The Words he utter'd did cauſe her to weep,
Yet nevertheleſs ſhe was forced to keep,
True ſilence that Minute, that Minute, for fear,
Her honoured Father and Mother ſhould hear.

PART II.

SOON after brisk *Henry* enter'd on Board,
When Heaven a proſperous Gale did afford,
And brought them to the Kingdom of *Spain*,
Wher he with a Merchant ſome time did remain.
Who finding him ever rightful and juſt,
Preſerr'd him to places of honour and truſt,
He was made as great as his heart could requeſt,
Yet wanting *Ruth*, he with grief was oppreſt.
So great was his grief it could not be conceal'd,
Wealth, Honour, and Riches no pleaſure could,

In private he often woul weep and lament, [yield,
For *Ruth* the fair beautiful Lady of *Kent*.

Now while he lamented the loss of his Dear,
A Lady of *Spain* did before him appear,
Deck'd with rich Jewels both costly and gay,
Who earnestly sought for his Favour that Day.

Said she, Gentle Sir I am wounded with Love,
And you are the Person I honour above,
The greatest of Nobles that ever was known,
Then pity my Tears and my sorrowful moan.

I pity thy sorrowful Tears, he reply'd,
And wish I was worthy to make thee my Bride,
But Lady, your Grandeur is greater than mine,
Wherefore I m fearful my Heart to resign.

Oh! never be doubtful of what shall ensue,
No manner of Danger can happen to you,
At my own Disposal I am, I declare,
Receive me with Love, or destroy me with Care.

Dear Lady, ne'er set your Affections on me,
You're fit for some Lord of a noble Degree,
That's able to bear up your Honour and Fame,
I am but a Sailor, from *England* I came.

A Man of mean Fortune whose Substance is small
I have not wherewith to maintain thee withal,
Sweet Lady, according to Honour and State,
Now this is the Truth, which I freely relate.

The Lady, she lovingly squeezed his Hand,
And said with a Smile, ever blest be that Land,
That bred such a noble brave Seaman as thee,
I value no Honour, thou'rt welcome to me.

yM

My Parents are dead, and I've Jewels untold,
Beſides in Poſſeſſion a Million of Gold,
And thou ſhalt be Lord of whatever I have,
Grant me but thy Love, which I earneſtly crave:
The turning a-ſide, to himſelf he replies,
I'm courted with Beauty and Riches likewiſe,
This Love I may have, but my *Ruth* is deny'd,
Wherefore he conſented to make her his Bride.
The Lady then cloathed him glorious and great,
His noble Deportment both proper and ſtrait,
Soon charm'd the innocent Eyes of his Dove,
And added a ſecond new Flame to his Love,
Then married they were without longer Delay,
Where now we will leave them both glorious and gay,
To ſpeak of fair Ruth, who in Sorrow was left
At Home with her Parents, of Comfort bereft.

PART. III.

WHen under her window with ſorrowful heart
He told his fair *Ruth* that he ſoon did depart
Her Parents they heard him, and pleaſed they were
But *Ruth* was affected with Sorrow and Care.
Now after her Love had quitted the Shore,
They kept her confin'd a Twelve-month or more,
And then they were pleaſed to ſet her at large,
With leaving upon her a wonderful Charge.
To fly from a Seaman as ſhe would from Death,
She promis'd ſhe would, with a trembling Breath:
Yet nevertheleſs as the Truth you ſhall hear,
She ſoon found out a Way for to follow her Dear:

Then

Then taking her Gold and her Silver alſo,
In Seaman's Apparrel away ſhe did go,
And found a Maſter with whom ſhe agreed,
To carry her over the Ocean with ſpeed.

Now when ſhe arriv'd at the Kingdom of *Spain*,
From City to City ſhe travell'd amain,
Enquiring every where for her Love,
Who had been gone from her a Year and above.

In *Cadiz*, as ſhe walk'd along the Street,
Her Love and his Lady ſhe happen'd to meet,
But in ſuch a Garb as ſhe never had ſeen,
She look'd like an Angel, or a beautious Queen.

With ſorrowful Tears, ſhe turn'd her a-ſide,
My Jewel is gone, I ſhall ne'er be his Bride,
But nevertheleſs tho' my Hopes are in vain,
I'll never return to *England* again.

But here in this City a Service I'll find,
It will be a Comfort, and Joy to my Mind,
To ſee him ſometimes, tho' he thinks not on me,
Since he has a Lady of noble Degree.

Now while in this City fair *Ruth* did reſide,
The beautiful Lady ſhe ſuddenly dy'd,
And tho' he was left in poſſeſſion of all,
Yet Tears from his Eyes in abundance did fall.

As he was expreſſing his ſorrowful Moan,
Fair *Ruth* ſhe came to him, and made herſelf known
He ſtarted to ſee her, yet ſeemed not coy,
Said he, now my Sorrow's are mingled with Joy.

The time of his Mourning he kept in *Spain*,
And then they returned to fair *England* again,

With

With Thousands and Millions which he did possess,
Then glorious and great was fair *Ruth* in her Dress.

PART. IV.

WHen over the Seas to fair *Meadstone* he came,
with *Ruth* and abundance of Persons of Fame
They all did appear both splended and gay,
As if it had been a Coronation-day.
Now when they hav took up their Lodgings, be-[hold,
He stripp'd off his Robes of embroidered Gold,
And presently borrows a Mariner's Suit,
That he with her Parents might have some Disputе
Before they were sensible he was so great, [Gate
Now when he came there, and had knock'd at the
He soon sees her Father and Mother likewise,
Expressing their Sorrows with watery Eyes.
To them, with Obedience, he modestly said,
Pray where is my Jewel, that innocent Maid;
Whose amorous Beauty does Thousands excel;
I fear, by your Weeping, that all is not well.
No, no, she is gone, she is utterly lost,
We have not heard from her this twelve-month *almost*
This makes us distracted with Sorrows and Care,
And drowns us with Tears at the Point of Despair.
I'm sorry to hear the said Tidings, he cry'd,
Alas honest Friend, her dear Father reply'd,
I heartily wish she'd been marry'd to you,
Then these sharp Sorrows we had not gone through.
Brisk Henry made him this Answer again,
I'm newly come home from the Kingdom of Spain
From whence I have brought me a beautiful Bride,
And am to be marry'd To-morrow, he cry'd.

And if you will come to my Wedding quoth he,
Both you and your Lady, right welcome shou'd be,
They promis'd they wou'd, accordingly came,
Not thinking to meet with such Persons of Fame.

All deck'd in their Jewels their Robes and Pearls
As equal Companions for Nobles and Earls,
Fair *Ruth* with her Love was as gay as the rest,
So they in their Marriage were happily blest.

Now as they returned from Church to their Inn,
The Father and Mother of *Ruth* did begin,
To know their dear Daughter by one certain Mould
Although she was clothed in Garments of gold.

With Transports of Joy, they flew to the Bride,
O! where has thou been, our Daughter, they cry'd,
Whose sorrowful Absence has griev'd us sore,
As fearing, alas! we should see thee no more.

Dear Parents! said she, many Hazards I run,
To fetch home my Love, and your dutiful Son;
Receive him with Joy, for 'tis very well known,
He wants not your Wealth, he's enough of his own.

Her Father reply'd as he merrily smil'd,
He brought home enough, if he brought but my Child
A Thousand Times welcome you are, I declare,
Whose Presence dispels my Sorrow and Care.

Full seven long Days then in Feasting they spent
The Bells in the Steeple the all merrily went,
And many fair pounds were bestowed on the poor,
The like of this wedding was never before.

FINIS.